

25 MAY 1949

TOP SECRET

GENERAL

1. Soviet motives as indicated by Vishinsky speech--Secretary of State Acheson in Paris comments that Vishinsky's statement in the 24 May session of the Council of Foreign Ministers seems to reveal the fundamental Soviet purpose to recapture a voice in Western Germany, particularly in economic matters. The Secretary believes this interpretation to be supported by Vishinsky's emphasis on the standard Soviet position regarding the Ruhr, his comparative neglect of political questions, and his failure to include anything calculated to attract any support in Germany. The Secretary adds that his reply to Vishinsky, insisting on the maintenance of the progress already made in Western Germany, was fully supported by the British and French Foreign Ministers, so that a unified western position is clearly on record.

The Secretary believes that Vishinsky's proposal that the CFM deal with the Japanese peace treaty reveals a Soviet desire to: (a) obtain participation for the Chinese Communist government, thus involving western recognition; or (b) embarrass the western powers by forcing them to refuse recognition. The US delegation in Paris expresses its "first impression" that the US should hold to its policy that the CFM is a highly undesirable forum for consideration of the Japanese peace treaty.

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